

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 04641 301303Z

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 /004 W

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O R 301226Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4636

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEPT OF DEFENSE WASHDC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 4641

USIAC

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, CENTRAL NEWS DESK AND LAO SERVICE,
IEA/L, IOP/G, STATE FOR EA/P, EA/LC, S/PRS, BANGKOK
FOR VOA AND PAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINT, LA
SUBJ: USINFO

1. IN VIENTIANE, LAOS, THE OCCUPATION OF AN AMERICAN
EMBASSY OWNED HOUSING COMPOUND, THE ADJACENT EMBASSY
GENERAL SERVICES OFFICE AND THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION
SERVICE OFFICES BY A PROTEST GROUP CONTINUED FOR THE
THIRD DAY. WHILE THE LAO GOVERNMENT HAS YET TO TAKE
AN OFFICIAL POSITION ON THIS ACTION, A PRESS CONFERENCE
DEALING WITH THIS SITUATION WAS HELD BY THREE ORGANIZATIONS
INVOLVED IN THIS AND EARLIER PROTEST ACTIONS.

2. RELIABLE SOURCES REPORTED THAT THE
PRESS CONFERENCE SPOKESMAN KHAMSAI SOURINTHONE,
PRESIDENT OF THE LAO STUDENT FEDERATION, STATED THAT
THE MAY 27 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAO GOVERNMENT AND
U.S. EMBASSY ENDING THE OCCUPATION OF THE USAID COMPOUND
SO THAT AID/LAOS COULD BE DISSOLVED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH AN EARLIER REQUEST BY THE LAO GOVERNMENT, WAS
A FINAL NEGOTIATION. APPARENTLY REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 04641 301303Z

THE STATUS OF THE HOUSING COMPOUND AND THE GENERAL

SERVICE OFFICE AS EMBASSY PROPERTY; KHAMSAI IMPLIED THAT THE PROTEST GROUP LAID CLAIM TO THESE AREAS. KHAMSAI ALSO DEMANDED THE CLOSURE OF THE U.S. INFORMATION SERVICE OFFICES IN LAOS; DESCRIBING THE SERVICE AS "AN IMPORTANT PART OF USAID."

3. IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION KHAMSAI SAID IT WAS HIS FEELING THAT IN THE ABSENCE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO LAOS DIPLOMATIC TIES BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND LAO GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOT BE ESSENTIAL.

4. MEANWHILE, THE EMBASSY DELIVERED A DIPLOMATIC NOTE PROTESTING THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF U.S. GOVERNMENT FACILITIES AND IN CONVERSATIONS WITH LAO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF THE LAO GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SEIZURE ACTION, DEMANDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PROTESTORS.

5. LATE DEVELOPMENTS: -- EARLY EVENING JUNE 30 TWO COMMUNIST PATHET LAO SOLDIERS ALONG WITH STUDENTS TOOK CONTROL OF A U.S. INFORMATION SERVICE WAREHOUSE IN VIENTIANE, AFTER NOTIFYING U.S. MISSION HIRED GUARDS THAT THEY COULD LEAVE THE WAREHOUSE AREA. THIS WAREHOUSE IS USED TO STORE BOTH USIS AND AMERICAN EMBASSY PROPERTY.
DAKS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, AGREEMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI04641
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750226-0253
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975061/aaaaabar.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USINFO
TAGS: MOPS, LA, US, USIS, AID, (KHAMSAI SOURINTHONE)
To: USINFO WASHDC NIACT STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006